

GAVIOTA BOAT HOIST - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Revised 9/2006

The following information has been prepared to answer some of the commonly asked questions about the boat hoist facility at Gaviota State Park.

Q. What's happening with the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park?

A. California State Parks received funding from the California Department of Boating and Waterways in fiscal year 2005-06 to accomplish the upgrade recommended in a report provided by Northeast Engineers & Consultants, Inc (NE&C). We have successfully completed the upgrade and the hoist is now open for public use on a limited basis. Classes to train boat owners and operators on the proper use of the hoist will be conducted later this year. Until then, State Park employees and volunteers are providing launch and retrieval services to the public.

Q. What are the hours that the hoist is open?

A. For individuals who have not yet received Operator certification and require launch/retrieval by a certified State Park employee or volunteer, the hoist operating hours are 7:30 AM to 7:00 PM, Thursday-Sunday. Once boaters successfully complete training and are certified to operate the hoist, they will be able to use the hoist seven days a week, weather & swell conditions permitting. Hoist hours of operation for certified operators will be 7:00 AM to sunset.

During the winter, the hoist will be open for staff-assisted launching from 8:00 AM to 5 PM, Thursday through Sunday. If no vessels have been launched by 1:00 PM, the hoist will be closed to staff-assisted launching. These hours of operation will begin in October.

Q. Why is it only open four days a week now?

A. Limited funding for staff and limited availability of trained volunteers meant we could not operate 7 days per week, so we felt we would serve the majority of boaters by operating the hoist on weekends and include two weekdays as well.

Q. Is there a charge to use the hoist?

A. Yes. In addition to the park day-use fee of \$8 per vehicle, there is a fee of \$8 to launch your motorized vessel. This applies to hoist launches as well as beach launches. An annual pass is available to frequent park users for \$125. An annual boat use pass is also available for \$75. For more information on these and other passes, visit the California State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov.

Q. When will the training sessions start?

A. We have not determined a specific start date for the training. Our legal staff is reviewing the training materials and Waiver Agreement that boaters will be required to sign. We hope to receive their recommendations by the end of September and will schedule classes immediately afterwards.

Q. What will the training consist of?

A. The training will consist of instruction in the safe and correct operation of the hoist as well as associated launch and retrieval procedures and related State Park rules and regulations. State Park employees and volunteers will then conduct a practical examination during which boaters will demonstrate that they have mastered the proper hoist operation and launch/retrieval procedures and that their vessel complies with all safety requirements. We have developed a training handbook that describes the entire launch and retrieval procedure and that includes additional helpful information. Training participants will receive a copy of the handbook at the training session they attend. We will also post a link to the handbook on the Gaviota State Park web page at the California State Parks web site.

Q. How long will the training be?

A. The classroom session will last for 1 hour. The practical examination will take approximately 10 minutes depending on the skill and ability of the boater.

Q. Where will the training be held?

A. The classroom session will be presented in the Day Use area at Gaviota State Park. The practical examination will be held on the pier.

Q. Will more than one training session be scheduled?

A. Yes. In order to make it possible for all boaters to obtain the necessary training, we will schedule classes on a number of days and at various times.

Q. When the training sessions begin, who will have to attend?

A. The only people who will be allowed to operate the hoist will be those who have successfully completed the training and have been certified to operate the hoist.

Q. What happens when I successfully complete the training?

A. Your name will be placed on a list of boaters who have been approved to operate the hoist. We will issue one key card to the vessel owner. The card, which activates the hoist, will be assigned to the vessel's CF number. Each card can only be used for the specific vessel to which it is assigned. The vessel owner may give the card to other persons who have also completed the training and have been certified to operate the hoist. It is the vessel owner's responsibility to make sure that the card is used only by certified hoist users and only for the vessel that the card is assigned to. Cards are subject to cancellation if these policies are not observed.

Q. Do you have to be a boat owner to attend the training?

A. No. California State Parks can provide a vessel for the practical examination. However, all other vessels will be subject to a safety inspection before they will be allowed to launch.

Q. Where can I get a copy of the NE&C Report?

A. The NE&C Report, "Boat Launch and Retrieval Facility Assessment Report," is a study of the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park that was conducted by Northeast Engineers and Consultants, Inc. over a 4-month period in early 2005. California State Parks contracted with NE&C to evaluate the mechanical and operational aspects of the hoist to determine the cause(s) of the accidents and breakdowns and provide recommendations to for eliminating them. The NE&C Report is available on the California State Parks website at the following address: http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=606.

Q. The NE&C Report indicates that the hoist must remain at 2-ton maximum rated capacity. What will be required to raise the limit?

A. See the NE&C Report, page 10; Section 4.1, under Hoist Load Rating. We have no plans to increase the weight limit for vessels launched from the pier at Gaviota State Park.

Q. Will any of these changes affect beach launching?

A. No. Small boat operators can still launch from the beach at Gaviota State Park 7 days a week. We will be developing signage regarding beach launching guidelines and requirements and will also conduct spot checks to ensure that all beach-launched vessels possess the required safety equipment.

Q. I have to schedule time off from work or otherwise plan in advance to use my boat. It would be great if you would let us know when the hoist is going to be closed.

A. We will make every effort to announce planned maintenance of the hoist well enough in advance for boaters to plan accordingly. Boaters should also monitor multi-day weather reports for changing weather patterns that might create unsafe conditions, which would cause us to close the hoist. Unforeseen breakdowns or sudden weather changes are obviously impossible to predict in advance.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. You can request to be added to the Gaviota Boat Hoist email list to receive the latest news and developments concerning the hoist. Send your first and last name and your email address to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov (note that this is a new email address that replaces the previous one). If your email address changes, notify us by sending us an email with your new contact information. You can also call 805-968-1033 for recorded status of the hoist, updated regularly.